

Attorney Docket No. P12194

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-10. (Canceled)

1 11. (New) An arrangement for distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet
2 Radio Service (GPRS) network, said arrangement comprising:

3 a global processor in the GPRS network that stores a global pool of available IP-
4 addresses; and

5 a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the GPRS
6 network, each of the application processors being adapted to:

7 " store blocks of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses, wherein
8 the size of the blocks of IP-addresses in the internal pool of each application processor
9 is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and
10 distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the application processors
11 while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for
12 additional IP-addresses;

13 supply an IP-address from the application processor's internal pool to a
14 user upon request; and

15 request an additional IP-address from the global processor when the
16 application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty;

17 wherein the global processor is adapted to transfer from the global pool to a
18 requesting application processor, a block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-
19 addresses in response to a request for an additional IP-address from the requesting
20 application processor.

1 12. (New) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein a given application
2 processor is adapted to release a block of IP-addresses to users and notify the global

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3 processor of the release, if the number of IP-addresses in the internal pool of the given
4 application processor exceeds a predefined limit.

1 13. (New) The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the predefined
2 limit is equal to two times the size of the block of IP-addresses last received from the
3 global processor.

1 14. (New) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the global
2 processor is arranged to release addresses that have not been used in a preceding
3 interval of time.

1 15. (New) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each application
2 processor is arranged to store the internal pool of IP-addresses in a Random-Access
3 Memory (RAM), and to make back-up copies of the internal pool on a persistent storage
4 medium at regular intervals.

1 16. (New) An arrangement for distributing resources in a network, said
2 arrangement comprising:
3 a global processor in the network that stores a global pool of available resources;
4 and
5 a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the
6 network, each of the application processors being adapted to:
7 store blocks of resources in an internal pool of resources, wherein the size
8 of the blocks of resources in the internal pool of each application processor is
9 dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute
10 resources between the global processor and the application processors while ensuring
11 that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for additional
12 resources;
13 supply a resource from the application processor's internal pool to a user
14 upon request; and

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15 request an additional resource from the global processor when the
16 application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty;
17 wherein the global processor is adapted to transfer from the global pool to a
18 requesting application processor, a block of resources comprising a plurality of
19 resources in response to a request for an additional resource from the requesting
20 application processor.

1 17. (New) A method of distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet Radio
2 Service (GPRS) network, said method comprising the steps of:
3 storing a global pool of available IP-addresses in a global processor in the GPRS
4 network;
5 storing blocks of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses in each
6 of a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the GPRS
7 network, wherein the size of the blocks of IP-addresses in the internal pool of each
8 application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required
9 to request and distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the application
10 processors while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all
11 requests for additional IP-addresses;
12 supplying IP-addresses from a given application processor's internal pool to
13 users upon request;
14 requesting by the given application processor, an additional IP-address from the
15 global processor when the given application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly
16 empty; and
17 transferring from the global processor to a requesting application processor, a
18 block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-addresses in response to a request
19 for an additional IP-address from the requesting application processor.